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# ***WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK FOR IDAHO***

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PROCUREMENT SECTION  
CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

Prepared by

**U. S. DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE ★ SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE**

Collaborating with

**IDAHO STATE DEPARTMENT OF WATER ADMINISTRATION**

Data included in this report were obtained by the agencies named above in cooperation with Federal, State and private organizations listed inside the back cover of this report.

AS OF  
**JUNE 1, 1973**

## TO RECIPIENTS OF WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK REPORTS:

Most of the usable water in western states originates as mountain snowfall. This snowfall accumulates during the winter and spring, several months before the snow melts and appears as streamflow. Since the runoff from precipitation as snow is delayed, estimates of snowmelt runoff can be made well in advance of its occurrence. Streamflow forecasts published in this report are based principally on measurement of the water equivalent of the mountain snowpack.

Forecasts become more accurate as more of the data affecting runoff are measured. All forecasts assume that climatic factors during the remainder of the snow accumulation and melt season will interact with a resultant average effect on runoff. Early season forecasts are therefore subject to a greater change than those made on later dates.

The snow course measurement is obtained by sampling snow depth and water equivalent at surveyed and marked locations in mountain areas. A total of about ten samples are taken at each location. The average of these are reported as snow depth and water equivalent. These measurements are repeated in the same location near the same dates each year.

Snow surveys are made monthly or semi-monthly from January 1 through June 1 in most states. There are about 1900 snow courses in Western United States and in the Columbia Basin in British Columbia. Networks of automatic snow water equivalent and related data sensing devices, along with radio telemetry are expanding and will provide a continuous record of snow water and other parameters at key locations.

Detailed data on snow course and soil moisture measurements are presented in state and local reports. Other data on reservoir storage, summaries of precipitation, current streamflow, and soil moisture conditions at valley elevations are also included. The report for Western United States presents a broad picture of water supply outlook conditions, including selected streamflow forecasts, summary of snow accumulation to date, and storage in larger reservoirs.

Snow survey and soil moisture data for the period of record are published by the Soil Conservation Service by states about every five years. Data for the current year is summarized in a West-wide basic data summary and published about October 1 of each year.

### PUBLISHED BY SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

The Soil Conservation Service publishes reports following the principal snow survey dates from January 1 through June 1 in cooperation with state water administrators, agricultural experiment stations and others. Copies of the reports for Western United States and all state reports may be obtained from Soil Conservation Service, Western Regional Technical Service Center, Room 209, 511 N. W. Broadway, Portland, Oregon 97209.

Copies of state and local reports may also be obtained from state offices of the Soil Conservation Service in the following states:

STATE	ADDRESS
Alaska	204 E. 5th. Ave., Room 217, Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Arizona	6029 Federal Building, Phoenix, Arizona 85025
Colorado (N. Mex.)	P. O. Box 17107, Denver, Colorado 80217
Idaho	Room 345, 304 N. 8th. St., Boise, Idaho 83702
Montana	P. O. Box 970, Bozeman, Montana 59715
Nevada	P. O. Box 4850, Reno Nevada 89505
Oregon	1218 S. W. Washington St., Portland, Oregon 97205
Utah	4012 Federal Bldg., 125 South State St., Salt Lake City, Utah 84111
Washington	360 U.S. Court House, Spokane, Washington 99201
Wyoming	P. O. Box 2440, Casper, Wyoming 82601

### PUBLISHED BY OTHER AGENCIES

Water Supply Outlook reports prepared by other agencies include a report for California by the Water Supply Forecast and Snow Surveys Unit, California Department of Water Resources, P. O. Box 388, Sacramento, California 95802 --- and for British Columbia by the Department of Lands, Forests and Water Resources, Water Resources Service, Parliament Building, Victoria, British Columbia





# **WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK FOR IDAHO**

and  
FEDERAL - STATE - PRIVATE COOPERATIVE SNOW SURVEYS

*Issued by*

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*Report prepared by*

**JACK A. WILSON, Snow Survey Supervisor**

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE  
SNOW SURVEY SECTION  
ROOM 345, 304 N. 8th. ST.  
BOISE, IDAHO 83702

THE HISTORY OF THE  
CITY OF BOSTON  
FROM 1630 TO 1800

BY  
JOHN H. COOPER

VOLUME I  
1630-1700

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1850

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1850

# WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK for IDAHO



JUNE 1, 1973

## SNOW SURVEYS, SUPPLEMENTAL MEASUREMENTS AND CORRECTIONS

Snow surveys made near the first of June indicate a continuation of the dry cycle experienced throughout the 1972-73 winter season. Measurements are the lowest of record for some courses and near the lowest on the remainder. Spring precipitation has been well below normal without any storms heavy enough to significantly increase streamflow. Temperatures in general have been normal to above normal resulting in early snowmelt even at high elevations.

As a result of early snowmelt and lack of spring precipitation, it now appears that practically all rivers will flow less than the forecasts of May 1.

Reservoir storage was good at the beginning of the season but will be reduced significantly by the end of this irrigation season.

This report carries supplemental and corrected measurements made earlier in the season.





## SNOW

DRAINAGE BASIN and/or SNOW COURSE		THIS YEAR			PAST RECORD	
		Date of Survey	Snow Depth (Inches)	Water Content (Inches)	Water Content (inches)	
NAME	Elevation				Last Year	Average <sup>b</sup>

JUNE 1, 1973 MEASUREMENTS

Atlanta Summit	7500	6/1	16	7.3	35.3	--
Big Creek Summit	6600	5/30	14	7.3	31.4	--
Brundage Mountain	7560	5/29	32	15.5	45.8	--
Coolwater Mountain	6200	5/30	0	0.0	--	--
Crater Meadows	6100	5/30	5	2.8	56.4	--
Deadwood Summit	7000	5/30	24	12.4	36.9	--
Darby Canyon	8250	6/6	0	0.0	--	--
Elk Butte	5550	5/29	0	0.0	36.6	--
Freds Mountain	8000	6/6	0	0.0	--	--
Galena Summit	8795	6/6	T	T	23.2	--
Garns Mountain	8300	6/6	23	12.5	--	--
Goat Lake	6600	5/30	32	15.3	56.0	--
Granite Peak	6000	5/29	20	10.1	57.4	--
Hemlock Butte	5500	5/29	20	10.9	58.0	--
Indian Meadows	8200	6/6	27	14.4	--	--
Jackpine Creek	7500	6/6	0	0.0	--	--
Jackson Peak	7000	5/31	0	0.0	25.4	--
Kellogg Peak (A)	5560	5/29	0	0.0	--	--
Lookout	5250	5/30	0	0.0	25.3	--
Lost Lake	6000	5/29	28	13.1	83.0	--
McRenold Reservoir	6800	6/6	0	0.0	--	--
Medicine Ridge	6150	5/29	21	10.6	61.0	--
Miles Creek	7500	6/6	0	0.0	--	--
Moores Creek Summit	6100	5/31	0	0.0	20.8	6.8
Orogrande Mountain	7800	5/30	40	18.1	49.2	--
Pine Creek Pass	6750	6/4	0	0.0	--	--
Roland Summit (A)	5200	5/29	0	0.0	--	--
Schweitzer Bowl	4500	5/29	0	0.0	0.0	--
Schweitzer Ridge	6100	5/29	38	19.2	34.8	--
Secesh Summit	6600	5/31	7	3.4	--	--
Squaw Meadow	5800	5/31	0	0.0	17.5	--
State Line	6400	6/4	0	0.0	--	--
Trinity Mountain	7780	6/1	18	8.8	42.9	--
Vienna Mine	8900	6/1	25	12.8	46.8	--

(b) 1953-67, 15 year period. #Not located directly on this drainage. \* Estimated 1953-67, 15 year Average. (A) Aerial observation Water content estimated. (SP) Pressure Pillow snow-water equivalent. (R) Radioactive Gage snow-water equivalent.



## SNOW

DRAINAGE BASIN and/or SNOW COURSE		THIS YEAR			PAST RECORD	
		Date of Survey	Snow Depth (Inches)	Water Content (Inches)	Water Content (inches)	
NAME	Elevation				Last Year	Average <sup>b</sup>

SUPPLEMENTAL MEASUREMENTSDECEMBER 1, 1972

Emigrant Summit	7350	11/29	20	4.0	6.6	--
Giveout	6840	11/28	16	3.0	3.0	--
Somsen Ranch	7000	11/30	15	2.0	4.3	--
Willow Flat	6100	11/30	12	2.1	--	--

DECEMBER 15, 1972

Mosquito Ridge	5110	12/18	31	6.6	--	--
Pierce Ranger Station	3170	12/15	7	1.0	8.1	--

JANUARY 1, 1973

Buck Meadows	5600	1/8	42	12.0	--	--
Mountain Meadows	6300	1/8	40	10.4	--	--
Silver Creek Ridge	5700	1/5	29	7.0	--	--

JANUARY 15, 1973

Mount Baldy	9000	1/14	32	7.4	13.5	--
Pierce Ranger Station	3170	1/16	10	2.0	15.5	--

FEBRUARY 15, 1973

Galena	7300	2/15	44	11.4	19.4	--
Galena Summit	8795	2/15	50	13.4	24.2	--
Mount Baldy	9000	2/15	50	12.2	18.0	15.4
Pierce Ranger Station	3170	2/15	20	4.4	19.8	9.4

MARCH 15, 1973

Above Burke	4100	3/16	34	10.6	--	--
Bogus Basin	6120	3/21	58	18.2	--	--
Fourth of July Summit	3100	3/15	6	2.6	9.4	--
Galena	7300	3/15	44	13.0	24.8	--
Galena Summit	8795	3/15	54	15.6	31.2	--
Lookout	5250	3/15	63	20.0	53.8	36.2
Mount Baldy	9000	3/14	51	14.3	24.5	19.0
Pierce Ranger Station	3170	3/15	16	4.7	23.4	11.4
Prairie	4900	3/15	2	0.8	8.6	--
Sherwin	3200	3/15	17	3.7	22.8	--

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DRAINAGE BASIN and/or SNOW COURSE		THIS YEAR			PAST RECORD	
		Date of Survey	Snow Depth (Inches)	Water Content (Inches)	Water Content (inches)	
NAME	Elevation				Last Year	Average <sup>b</sup>

SUPPLEMENTAL MEASUREMENTSAPRIL 15, 1973

Fourth of July Summit	3100	4/16	0	0.0	--	--
Galena	7300	4/17	34	12.5	23.5	--
Galena Summit	8795	4/17	59	18.6	34.6	--
Lookout	5250	4/16	50	19.2	57.1	--
Mount Baldy	9000	4/15	55	16.8	--	--
Pierce Ranger Station	3170	4/13	1	0.3	16.0	5.0
Prairie	4900	4/15	0	0.0	0.0	--

MAY 1, 1973

Bear Canyon	7920	5/9	28	10.1	16.4	--
Copper Basin	7650	5/9	0	0.0	4.8	--
Garns Mountain	8300	5/11	81	37.3	--	--
Indian Meadows	8200	5/11	78	34.3	--	--

MAY 15, 1973

Galena	7300	5/15	T	T	9.0	--
Galena Summit	8795	5/15	36	15.0	30.6	--
Lookout	5250	5/15	21	9.2	47.0	--
Mosquito Ridge	5110	5/17	23	10.0	--	--

(b) 1953-67, 15 year period. #Not located directly on this drainage. \* Estimated 1953-67, 15 year Average. (A) Aerial observation Water content estimated. (SP) Pressure Pillow snow-water equivalent. (R) Radioactive Gage snow-water equivalent.



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NAME	Elevation				Last Year	Average <sup>b</sup>

CORRECTIONS TO PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED 1973 DATAJANUARY 1, 1973

Deadwood Summit	7000	1/3	70	19.5	21.0	--
Island Park (New)	6315	1/5	29	5.2	--	--
Lower Sands Creek	3400	12/27	10	3.5	--	--

FEBRUARY 1, 1973

Dixie Hill	5230	1/31	5	1.1	6.3	--
Horse Creek Helispot	4100	1/30	19	5.0	--	--
Sage Creek Saddle	4100	1/29	23	6.0	--	--

MARCH 1, 1973

Island Park (New)	6315	2/28	43	12.0	--	--
Mountain Meadows	6300	3/6	47	14.4	32.7	--
Savage Pass (Old)	6160	2/26	50	16.5	36.4	24.9*

APRIL 1, 1973

Copper Ridge	4800	3/29	32	11.5	38.6	31.1
Elk Mountain	7500	3/30	89	38.0	71.7	--
Mud Flat	5500	3/28	12	4.7	3.0	4.2*
Webber Creek	6700	4/2	27	5.8	7.0	4.5*

MAY 1, 1973

Stickney Mill	7500	5/4	10	3.2	3.3	--
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(b) 1953-67, 15 year period. #Not located directly on this drainage. \* Estimated 1953-67, 15 year Average. (A) Aerial observation Water content estimated. (SP) Pressure Pillow snow-water equivalent. (R) Radioactive Gage snow-water equivalent.





# Agencies and Organizations Cooperating in Idaho Snow Surveys

## GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

### Canada:

Department of Lands, Forests, and  
Water Resources, British Columbia  
Department of Resources and Development,  
Water Resources Division

### States:

Idaho State Department of Water Administration  
State of Idaho Department of Fish and Game  
University of Idaho  
Idaho State University  
Montana Agricultural Experiment Station  
Montana State Water Conservation Board  
Nevada Cooperative Snow Surveys  
Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station  
Oregon Cooperative Snow Surveys  
Oregon State Engineer and Corps of  
State Watermasters  
Utah Cooperative Snow Surveys  
Wyoming Cooperative Snow Surveys

### Federal:

U. S. Army Engineers  
  
U. S. Department of Agriculture  
Forest Service  
Agriculture Research Service  
  
U. S. Department of Commerce  
NOAA, National Weather Service  
  
U. S. Department of the Interior  
Bonneville Power Administration  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Fish and Wildlife Service  
Water Resources Division, Geological Survey  
Indian Service  
National Park Service  
Bureau of Land Management

## PUBLIC UTILITIES

The Montana Power Company  
Washington Water Power Company  
Idaho Power Company  
Utah Power and Light Company

## ORGANIZED PUBLIC AGENCIES

Big Lost River Irrigation District  
Boise Project Board of Control  
Little Wood River Irrigation District  
Jordan Valley Irrigation District  
Salmon Falls Creek Irrigation Company  
Twin Falls Soil Conservation District  
Twin Lakes Irrigation Company  
Big Wood Irrigation Company  
Owyhee Project - North & South Board of Control

## PRIVATE CORPORATIONS

Amalgamated Sugar Company

*Other organizations and individuals furnish valuable information for  
snow survey reports. Their cooperation is gratefully acknowledged.*

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